(c) whether any study has been conducted to learn the effects of suspended coal particles on people living in the vicinity, which we believed to be the cause for T.B. among its population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the National Annual Risk of TB infection survey conducted in 2000-2003, it is estimated that about 42,000 new cases (smear positive, smear negative and extra-pulmonary TB) occur every year in Jharkhand.

(b) The mortality rate among patients registered under RNTCP for the last 5 years is as under:

2003 – 2.5%

2004 – 2.6%

2005 – 3.7%

2006 – 3.7%

2007 (1st and 2nd quarter) – 3.9%

(c) No Sir. No specific study has been conducted in Jharkhand to learn the effect of coal particles on occurrence of TB.

Evidence from literature review show an association between exposure to dust (pneumoconiosis) and occurrence of TB, and contributed by associated factors like low socio-economic conditions, malnutrition, unhealthy housing conditions, overcrowding among industrial population, which predisposes to breakdown of TB infections into TB disease.

Upgradation of hospitals in Assam

2073. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any policy to upgrade any hospital in Assam in the lines of AIIMS, Delhi specially the Guwahati Medical College (GMC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new super speciality hospital is under consideration to be set up in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details of that including its estimated budgetary expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a proposal for upgradation of existing facilities of Guwahati Medical College at an estimated cost of Rs.31.20 crore under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been taken up. Out of Rs. 31.20 crore an amount of Rs.10.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2006-07 and another installment is being released during current financial year.

In addition to above, a proposal for establishment of a Super Specialty Hospital at an estimated cost of Rs.88.75 crore has also been recommended by EFC for approval

Incidents of foeticide

2074. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inspite of the existing statutory punishment to the criminals of female foeticide a large number of such incidents have been taking place throughout the country every year;

(b) if so, what measures are being taken by Government to curb this social evil; and

(c) how many such cases have been brought to the notice of Government during the last two years, year-wise and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Child Sex Ratio (CSR) for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 had decreased to 927 girls per thousand boys as against 945 recorded in 1991 Census.

In order to check female foeticide, the Government has enacted the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC&PNDT Act). The technique of pre-conception sex selection has been brought within the ambit of this Act so as to pre-empt the use of such technologies, which significantly contribute to the declining sex ratio. Use of ultrasound machines has also been brought with-in the purview of this Act more explicitly so as to curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus lest it should lead to female foeticide. The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act.

Some of the other initiatives taken to prevent the practice of female foeticide include strengthening the implementation of the Act in the country by constituting National Support and Monitoring Cell (NSMC); National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) consisting of representatives from Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Women, Ministry of Law and NGOs; sensitization through Members of Parliament; funding to the State under Reproductive and Child Health – II; inclusion of the issue under NRHM; sensitizing the judiciary and training of judicial personnel; development of a website with the provision of online registration of complaints and awareness generation activities such as launching of "Save the Girl Child" campaign etc.

(c) The number of Court Cases filed under the PC and PNDT Act as on 01.08.2007 are 402, out of which 140 cases have been filed for non-registration of ultrasound clinic, 135 for non-maintenance of records, 61 for communication of sex of the foetus, 36 for advertising about pre-natal/conception diagnostic facilities and 30 for other violations of the Act/Rules.